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(54) **Apparatus and method for discovering active devices using IP**

(57) Active devices can be discovered in ARP tables from routers on the network. Pings can then be sent to the active devices for verification, or pings can be sent to devices at other addresses on the network. Devices can also be discovered by sending a batch of pings (204) to addresses on the network and monitoring re-

sponses from those addresses over an interval. After the interval elapses, another batch of pings can be sent (214). The devices can be discovered by a host on the network or by a network manager. The network manager can add the discovered devices to a network topology database.

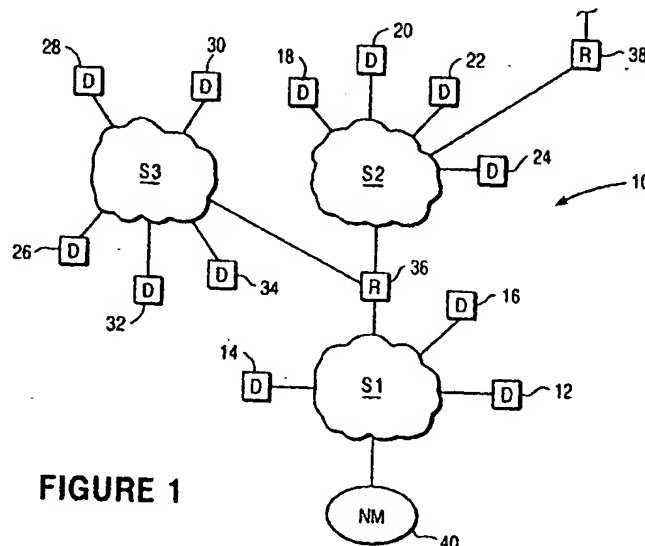


FIGURE 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 455 402 A (HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY) 6 November 1991 (1991-11-06)	1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-19	H04L29/06 H04L12/56
A	* column 5, line 38 - column 11, line 34 * -----	5, 15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 December 2000	Examiner Behringer, L.V.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 2847

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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19-12-2000

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82